Treaty as a first step towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons. In the Stockholm Declaration adopted at the Summit of the Six Nation Initiative, in which our Prime Minister participated, the six leaders called for the complete elimination of techtical nuclear weapons and the signing of a treaty on a 50 per cent reduction of strategic nuclear weapons leading to the ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons. In the statement they also referred to the objective of creating a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world.

(b) The United States and the Soviet Union are holding bilateral negotiations in Geneva on a draft treaty on a 50 per cent reduction of strategic nuclear weapons. This will be the major item to be taken up at the Summit of the leaders of the two countries to be held in Moscow later this year.

1638. [*Transferred to the 15th March*, 1988].

Nature of cases handled by Lok Adalats

1639. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
DR. RATNAKAR PENDEY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far in different States and Union Territories to organise Lok Adalats, indicating number of cases disposed off during the year 1986;

(b) what is the nature of cases handled by Lok Adalats; and

(c) whether simple cases relating to tenancy have been or are proposed to be brought within the purview of these courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) While most of the States are organising Lok Adalats, States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Utter Pradesh and Orissa are organising Lok Adalats on regular basis, as regards the Union Territories, Lok Adalats are being organised at present only in Delhi and Pondicherry. As per information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, 571 Lok Adalats have been organised in 1986 in the country where 3,48,876 cases were settled.

(b) Most of the cases pertain to motor accident claims, family/matrimonial disputes, land pattas, labour, railway claims, criminal proceedings under Section 125 and other minor offences under Cr. P.C. and some compoundable criminal cases.

(c) In Rajasthan some such cases have already been handled. Efforts are made to take up simple tenancy cases also wherever possible at the Lok Adalats.

Growth rate in the Seventh Plan

1640. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the General growth rate, Industrial growth rate and Agricultural growth rate in the Seventh Five Year Plan till now as per the Mid Term appraisal;

(b) the extent upto which these growth rates have conformed to targeted growth rates;

(c) what are the reasons for the short fall in the attainment of growth rates, if any, targeted in the plan; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for attaining growth rates as stipulated in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI). (a) According to the quick estimates released by CSO, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost showed in growth rate of 4.8 per cent in 1985-86 and 4 per cent in 1986-87 at 1980-81 prices. The growth rate in agricultural sector including forestry, fishing is estimated at 0.3 per cent in 1985-86 and (—) 2.6 per cent in 1986-87. The manufacturing sector registered an estimated growth rate of 8.8 per cent in 1985-86 and 9 per cent in 1986-87.

(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan provided for an annual equivalent growth rate of 2.5 per cent p.a. in value added in the agricultural sector and 5.5 per cent in value added in the manufacturing sector for the five year period as a whole

(c) The primary factor of shortfall in attaining growth rates was the adverse weather conditions in the country

(d) For attaining the stipulated growth rates priority is being given to agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure in the next two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Electronic voting machine

1641. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to amend the election law shortly to enable the use of electronic voting machines from the next general elections onwards;

(b) if so, by when the proposed amendments are likely to be made in the election law;

(c) whether the rural people in the country will be able to cast their votes through electronic machines; and

(d) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Government have taken a preliminary decision to replace the ballot paper system with the electronic voting machines. However, Government are to finalise the other arrangements including the financial commitments involved in the matter. The proposal referred to in the question will arise only after the finalisation of the other arrangements.

(b) No time-table has been drawn up for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir. The electronic voting machine is very simple to operate. It is not expected to pose any problems to the rural voter. In fact, when the machine was put to use earlier as an experimental measure, no difficulty was experienced by any one including the rural voter.

(d) Government is keen to introduce electronic voting machines at least in some of the key constituencies in the country, in view of certain definite advantages in this system over the existing ballot paper system.

Crash involving IAF fighter plane

1642. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated 13th January, 1988 to the effect that the Indian Airforce Fighter Plane crashed near Tejpur on the 12th January, 1988; and

(b) if so, the estimated loss of life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) An IAF aircraft crashed near Tejpur airfield on the 11th January 1988. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot of the aircraft was killed. There was minor damage to a hut and a woman was injured.

Regularisation of daily wages workers

1643. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of daily wages workers who have been regularised by the Ministry of Science and Technology during the last three years;